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APPENDIX TO ENCLOSURE "B"

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

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File No. NR 319.1 (2 Apr 46) MC SUBJECT: Comments on JANIS Reports

From: Natural Resources Section To: OCE Date: 2 April 1946

1. Introduction.

a. This memorandum was prepared by the Natural Resources Section in response to a request from the Engineer Intelligence Division, Office of the Chief Engineer, AFPAO, for comments on the value of the Joint Army Navy Intelligence Studies (JANIS) as used in the preparation of Engineer Terrain Intelligence during the war and occupation, and in making plans for the appraisal and control of Japan's natural resources.

b. The purpose of the JANIS Studies is stated to be to "provide basic background data". This is also the mission of the Civil Affairs Handbooks published by the Army and Navy, but in practice there is not a great deal of overlap. The Civil Affairs Handbooks provide as many precise detailed data as possible on the region covered, with emphasis on economic data, and they are extremely useful as reference works; the JANIS Studies on the other hand provide an over-all picture of the region, with emphasis on the geographical point of view. The two series of publications thus supplement each other well. It is assumed in this memorandum that the purpose of the JANIS Studies is mainly to provide such an over-all picture; they were used in this way as background in the preparation of Engineer

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Intelligence in the Pacific theatre, and to a lesser extent in Natural Resources planning.

c. As all the JANIS Studies are built on the same plan, these remarks are intended to apply generally, but the memorandum is based principally on experience with the Studies covering Japan, Taiwan, and Korea. The memorandum was written by Mr. J. Rodgers of the Natural Resources Section. The section on Use in Natural Resources Planning is based primarily on statements of the experience of the several divisions of the Natural Resources Section in planning for the occupation of Japan. The section on use in Engineer Intelligence is based on Mr. Rodgers' nine months work with the Engineer Terrain Intelligence Team attached to the Engineer, POA, but he has had the benefit of many criticisms from Mr. L. W. Stach, of the Natural Resources Section, who served for more than three years in the Engineer Intelligence Division, Office of the Chief Engineer for AFPAC, SWPA, and the predecessors of those commands, and had many opportunities to observe the use of the Studies in the field. Although the following notes are mostly critical, they are not intended to disparage the Studies but only to suggest means of improving them.

2. Use in Natural Resources Planning.

a. The material on natural resources in the JANIS Studies is found largely in Chapter IX, Resources and Trade, though some is scattered elsewhere (e.g. Vegetation and Water Supply in Chapter II).

b. The appraisal and control of natural resources in an occupied country requires more detail than can be expected of a report on the regional scale of the JANIS Studies, but planning such work beforehand, as was done before the occupation of Japan, requires just such a regional summary.

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Even for this, the details on resources in the Studies were meagre, especially in forestry and agriculture, and the geographical point of view entirely out-weighed the economic. Moreover, a large part of the material was not compiled by technically trained men and hence was not critically evaluated. In general summary reports prepared by civilian agencies of the U. S. Government were found to be more accurate and useful.

3. Use in Engineer Terrain Intelligence.

a. The first part of this section of the memorandum consists of comments on the several chapters of the JANIS Studies most used in the preparation of Engineer Terrain Intelligence; the second part consists of more general remarks.

b. Chapter II, Military Geography, adequately serves its general purpose of providing a broad regional picture. However, it is commonly difficult to locate answers to specific questions in the long running paragraphs of the text. If the text were broken up into shorter paragraphs on single subjects or even tabulated, and if it were more immediately tied to maps, perhaps by describing the characters of given map units in the text, it would be more usable. Large scale maps would also be desirable, though admittedly the format would make them difficult.

c. Chapter III, Oceanography, and Chapter V, Climate and Weather, contain a great mass of useful data, though the data in Chapter V are slanted so entirely toward Air Corps requirements that it is occasionally difficult to extract information needed by the Engineers. Those sections of the Brief, Chapter I, which correspond to those chapters provide good summary generalizations of these data. It is suggested that these summaries would be very useful as

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introductions within the respective chapters, for a person looking for general information on Climate and Weather, for example, will turn direct to that chapter rather than to the Brief.

d. The data in Chapter IV, Coasts and Landing Beaches, are valuable but poorly organized. The chapter consists of two separate and unintegrated parts, which alternate in a confusing manner. It is thus difficult to find the text describing a given stretch of coast. One part, coasts, is mostly copies from the Navy Coast Pilots, and does not improve on them in any way. The other parts, beaches, is excellent as far as it goes, but it covers only a few segments of coast (the tabular form adopted in one recent JANIS (75) is useful and permits coverage of more beaches than the older paragraph form). The two parts should be written by a single set of authors, and should be integrated by reducing the coast section to interpolations between the beach descriptions and by slanting it more directly to landing problems.

e. Chapter VI, Port Facilities, is a good and factual study prepared by technical experts. Chapter VII, Transportation and Telecommunications, is similar but with much less detail. Chapter VIII, Cities and Towns, is adequate and useful.

f. The remaining chapters are of less direct concern to Engineer Intelligence, though they contain much valuable information. Chapter XV, Gazetteer and Map Appraisal, is especially to be commended.

g. Chapter I, the Brief, consists of abstracts of each of the other chapters and exhibits one of the principal flaws of the Studies, their lack of integration. Most of the sections of the brief are simply condensed versions of the corresponding chapters with no generalizations to compensate for the omissions. It is doubtful that such shorter

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statements will ever be used in preference to the full statements. On the other hand, Section 1 of the Brief gives a valuable short summary of the region not to be found elsewhere in the Study. It is recommended therefore that the Brief be replaced by a fully integrated over-all summary which would be in effect an expansion of the present Section 1.

h. The lack of integration visible in the Brief extends throughout the Studies and results in flat contradictions between various chapters. This was probably unavoidable under war conditions, which required quick preparation and quick distribution above everything else, but it should be eliminated in the future.

i. Another cause for unevenness in the chapters is that some are compiled by technically qualified experts and others are not. For example, Chapter VI is compiled by men trained in port and harbor engineering, but the sections on water supply systems in Chapters VIII and IX are not written by hydraulic engineers and commonly show serious errors. It may be that technical experts were not always available, but it would have been less misleading to omit a subject entirely rather than to treat it badly.

j. Another serious flaw in the Studies is the uniform positiveness of the statements, even in a single chapter. For the most part, it is impossible to tell from the text whether the given statement is certain fact, probable fact, or debatable opinion, but the implication is that all statements are equally accurate. As a result, the discovery of a few errors in one section undermines all confidence in the Studies. But since the data must vary greatly in value, it is the duty of the compiler to indicate the relative value of his statements. This can be accomplished by proper

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qualifications of the positive statements, for example by using reliability ratings such as those given for the Landing Beaches in Chapter IV. This is especially to be desired where, as with the Landing Beaches, the statements are not merely compilations but independent conclusions from the available data. In addition, a frank listing and appraisal of the sources from which the materials have been compiled and of the methods used in compiling them, will commonly help the reader in evaluating the statements. The bibliographies now at the ends of the chapters could be expanded into a thorough summary of sources of material.

k. In general the illustrations to the text are good; the use of aerial photographs where available is especially to be commended. The maps are almost all well drawn and readable, but sometimes carry less information than they might; for example, factories or mines are often located by prefecture or province only. It would be helpful if locations could be as precise as possible and carefully checked. All folded maps should have titles on the outside in a conspicuous place; this has been done on many.

l. The trend in the Studies toward shorter paragraphs and more tables is good and should be continued. The sacrifice in literary style and the increase in work for the editors and printers is more than outweighed by the greater usefulness of the material so presented.

4. Conclusions.

a. There is no question that the JANIS Studies have served a very useful purpose during the war, and their usefulness has been greatly enhanced by the wide distribution they have had, which is in contrast to most of the other intelligence prepared in Washington, especially Army intelligence. The Studies can serve an equally useful purpose during the peace, for they permit the compilation into one report of material

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from many scattered and frequently inaccessible sources. Studies of this sort should be extended over as many areas as possible; the less that is known about an area the more value such a compilation will have. For example, JANIS Studies of the North and South Polar regions would fill a real vacancy in present intelligence.

b. As regards the number of subjects covered, no great expansion or contraction is indicated; however, certain topics, such as natural resources, should be covered more fully. With more time available than during the war, the best technical assistance can be obtained, the material can be evaluated and interpreted, and the several parts of the study can be integrated. As a general rule, each chapter should include a mass of organized detail, the more the better within the limits of the format, together with a summary section consisting not only of text but also including a fairly large scale annotated map tied to the text. Tabular form should be used wherever possible, both in the detailed portions and in the summaries.

/s/
H.G.S.

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